REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2007, Applicants respectfully request continued examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,524 (Weber), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,918 (Kendall). Claims 5, 18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-34, 46, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63, 66-68, 71-73, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, 120-133 have been canceled without prejudice and may be pursued in a continuing application. Applicants respectfully assert that pending claims 1, 4, 6-11, 13, 16, 35, 37-44, 64, 65, 70, 75, 77-79, 82, and 84-89 are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Regarding independent claim 1, neither Weber nor Kendall, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest a speech recognition apparatus including a processor configured to analyze a grammar prior to receiving a speech input, wherein the grammar is in a form to be used by speech recognizer. Weber teaches an object interactive user interface using speech recognition and language processing updates, wherein a general grammar and context-specific grammar include new information related to a user's responses during a context-based interactive dialogue. These update modifications to the grammar provide a system for adaptability learning to recognize phrases uttered by the user, so that the next time the user asks for information, a proper match is found and appropriate actions taken without prompting the user for more information (9/6/06 Office Action, page 6). Thus, the analysis in Weber modifies a grammar based upon previous user input, and does not analyze a grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer. Kendall discloses a system and method for creating a language grammar. The grammar is generated by a developer using the grammar developer toolkit (i.e., a spread-sheet oriented software package) (Col. 5, ll. 51-53). When the grammar is defined, the computer software system automatically traverses the table to enumerate all possible valid utterances in the grammar (3/5/07 Office Action, page 3). This traversal generates an ASR grammar containing information regarding

words and phrases that the speech recognizer will be required to recognize, written in a form that is compatible with the recognizer. (Id.) Thus, Kendall discloses analyzing a spreadsheet and then producing a grammar which is in a form to be used by a speech recognition program. In contrast, a claim 1 recites a speech recognition apparatus including a first application configured to output a grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer, and to receive the user selection associated with the grammar, and a voice application platform adapted to receive a speech input and to receive the grammar from the first application, and to output the user selection to the first application, the voice application platform including a processor configured to analyze the grammar prior to receiving the speech input, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar independent of prior speech input, and to modify the grammar based on the at least one characteristic, and a speech recognizer coupled to the processor and configured to interpret the speech input as a function of the modified grammar, and to produce the user selection. That is, the analysis recited in claim 1 is performed on a grammar that is already in a form to be understood by a speech recognizer. For least these reasons, independent claim 1 and claims 3, 4, 6-11, 13, 16. 64, 65, 69 and 70 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Further, regarding claim 13 which depends directly from claim 1, neither Weber nor Kendall alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest modifying a grammar associated with a first speech recognizer to generate a grammar associated with a second speech recognizer. As discussed above, Kendall discloses analyzing a spreadsheet and then producing a grammar which is in a form to be used by a different speech recognition programs. However, Kendall does not disclose subsequently analyzing the grammar produced for a first speech recognition program to produce a grammar in a form to be used by a second speech recognition program. In contrast, claim 13 recites the grammar of claim 1 is associated with a first speech recognizer based upon a first speech recognition paradigm and the modified grammar is associated with a second speech recognizer based upon a second speech recognition paradigm which is different from the first speech recognition paradigm. For at least these reasons, claim 13 is patentable over Weber and Kendall.

Regarding claim 16, which depends directly from claim 1, Weber and Kendall do not teach, disclose, or suggest modifying a grammar based on information representative of a prompt. Weber discusses context-based prompting where a grammar is updated based on a user's prior responses, and the application will take appropriate actions without prompting the user for additional information (Col. 12, ll. 47-68, cited by the Examiner). That is, Weber only modifies a grammar based on a user's prior input. In contrast, the prompt synthesizer of claim 16 modifies a grammar based the information representative of the prompt, and does not depend on prior input from a user. Specifically, claim 16 recites a prompt synthesizer adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein the grammar includes information representative of a prompt and the processor receives the information representative of a prompt and the processor is configured to produce the modified grammar based on the information representative of a prompt. For example, where the grammar is for a 15 or 16 digit number, the processor can modify the grammar to allow a user to say for example, "Use my MasterCard" and supply the number directly if the user so states (see specification, pg. 24, ll. 16-24). For at least these reasons, claim 16 is patentable over Weber and Kendall.

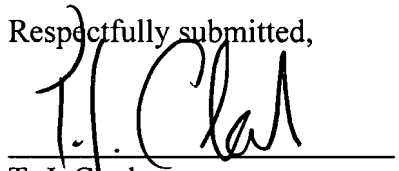
Regarding independent claim 35, neither Weber nor Kendall alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest a method of providing a user interface including receiving a first grammar and a form to be used by a speech recognizer, and analyzing the first grammar to identify a characteristic prior to receiving a first set of responses. Weber modifies a grammar based upon previous user input, and does not analyze a grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer. Kendall discloses analyzing a spreadsheet and then producing a grammar which is in a form to be used by a speech recognition program. In contrast, claim 35 recites a method of providing a user interface including receiving a first grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer from an application, the first grammar including information representative of a first set of responses expected to be received by the application, analyzing the first grammar to identify a characteristic prior to receiving the first set of responses, modifying the first grammar as a function of the characteristic to produce a second grammar representative of a second set of responses, and interpreting a user's voice input based on the second

grammar. For at least these reasons, independent claim 35 and claims 37-44, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 35, are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Regarding independent claim 75, Weber and Kendall do not teach, disclose, or suggest a method of providing a user interface including analyzing a first grammar prior to receiving a first set of responses to identify a characteristic, and selecting a response to be sent to the application as a function of the characteristic, wherein the selected response is sent to the application without receiving input from a user. Weber discloses update modifications to a grammar that provide a system for adaptability learning to recognize phrases uttered by a user, so that the next time the user asks for information, a proper match is found and appropriate actions taken without prompting the user for more information (9/6/06 Office Action, page 6). Thus, the actions taken in Weber are based on at least a phrase uttered by the user. Kendall discloses analyzing a spreadsheet and then producing a grammar which is in a form to be used by a speech recognition program. Neither Weber nor Kendall disclose sending a response to an application without receiving input from the user, as recited in claim 75. For at least these reasons, independent claim 75 and claims 77-79, 82, and 84-89, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 75, are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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